

## 2006 McCall SubRegion Wolf Activity

Telemetry, Documented and Suspected Locations

2005-06 Telemetry and Research-based Locations \*

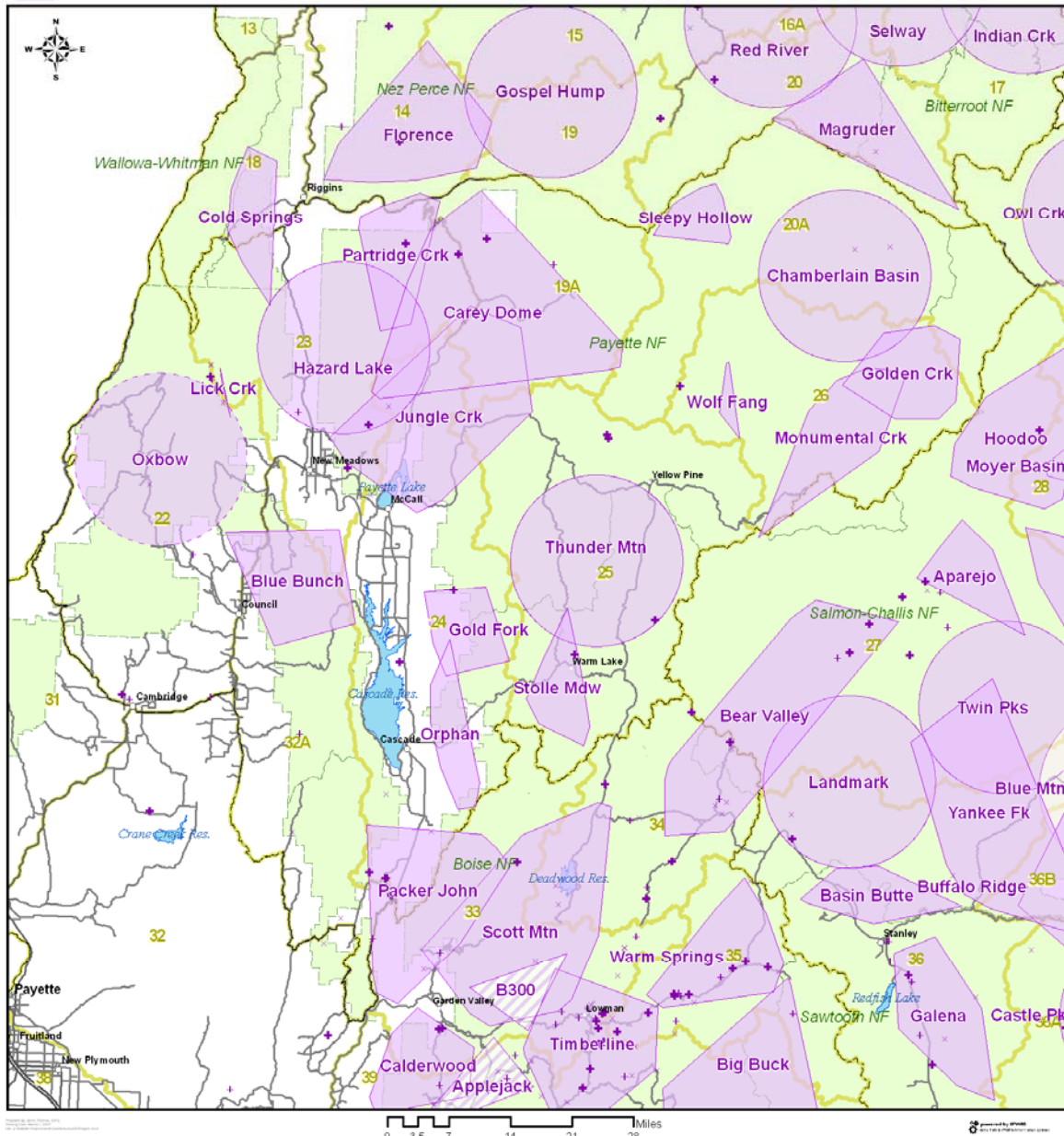
- Terminated Pack
- Other Documented Wolf Group Activity (Less than 5 animals)
- Documented Pack Activity

2006 Public Observations \*\*\*

- + Multiple Animals
- + Single Animal
- x Not Specified

2006 Estimated Pack Location (Not Telemetry-based) \*\*

- Documented Pack Activity
- Suspected Pack Activity
- Terminated Pack



\* Telemetry data and research locations collected and analyzed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Nez Perce Tribe, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the National Park Service. Pack locations are minimum convex polygons of telemetry and research observations for radio-collared wolves from 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2006 with outliers removed. Packs which did not exist in 2006 are excluded. This map is provided for management purposes and should not be used for data analysis. Do not release these data to third parties without first contacting the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or the Nez Perce Tribe.

\*\* Estimated Pack Activity determined by biologists from research locations, public observations and incidental observations from 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2006.  
\*\*\* Public Observations from 1/1/2006 - 12/31/2006 collected on the Idaho Fish and Game website and reviewed by staff biologists.

Map Produced by Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System, Idaho Fish and Game in cooperation with: The Nez Perce Tribe, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USDAAPHIS Wildlife Services, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the National Park Service

Figure 8. Wolf pack activity and observations in the McCall Subregion, 2006.

Table 4. Estimated pack size, reproductive status, mortality, dispersal, monitoring status, and livestock depredation for documented and suspected wolf packs within Idaho Department of Fish and Game McCall Subregion, 2006.

Wolf pack or group	Min. no. wolves detected <sup>a</sup>	Reproductive status				Documented mortalities				Known dispersal	Monitoring status			Confirmed & probable wolf-caused livestock losses		
		Min. no. pups prod.	Reported as reprod. packs	Reported as breeding pairs <sup>b</sup>	Active radio collars						Number wolves captured <sup>f</sup>	Number wolves missing <sup>g</sup>	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs	
		Natural	Control <sup>c</sup>	Other human <sup>d</sup>	Unknown <sup>e</sup>											
Documented pack																
Blue Bunch	9	7	yes	yes	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	5	0	
Carey Dome	6	3	yes	yes	0	3	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	65	0	
Chamberlain Basin	6	4	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Gold Fork <sup>h</sup>	1	0	no	no	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	
Golden Creek <sup>i</sup>	6	4	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	
Hazard Lake	?	?	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	
Jungle Creek	7	2	yes	yes	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	22	0	
Lick Creek	8	3	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	43	0	
Monumental Crk	10	3	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	
Orphan	2	0	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	
Partridge Creek	?	?	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sleepy Hollow	7	3	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Stolle Meadows	2	1	yes	no	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Thunder Mountain	?	?	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Wolf Fang	7	5	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	
Subtotal	71	35			0	11	2	0	1	10	9	3	7	145	0	
Suspected pack																
Oxbow	1				0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Subtotal	1				0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other doc. group																
B315	1				0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Subtotal	1				0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Regional total	73	35			0	12	2	0	1	11	10	3	7	145	0	

<sup>a</sup> Number of wolves detected by wolf program personnel through observations of wolves or wolf sign and believed alive at end of 2006. Unknown status denoted by “?” Sum of this column does not equate to number of wolves estimated to be present in the population.

<sup>b</sup> Breeding pairs are the measure of Federal and State wolf recovery and management goals. A breeding pair is defined as “an adult male and an adult female wolf that have produced at least 2 pups that survive until December 31 of the year of their birth...”.

<sup>c</sup> Includes agency lethal control and legal take by landowners.

<sup>d</sup> Includes all other human-related deaths.

<sup>e</sup> Does not include pups that disappeared before winter.

<sup>f</sup> Includes all wolves captured during 2006. Most, but not all, were radiocollared.

Table 4. Continued.

<sup>g</sup> Radiocollared wolves that became missing in 2006.

<sup>i</sup> One wolf died in the Salmon Region while dispersing from this territory.

<sup>h</sup> Lethally removed during 2006; not included in end-of-year tallies.

## **Nampa Subregion of the Southwest Region**

During 2006, the Nampa Subregion portion of the Southwest Region was home to 9 documented wolf packs (Figure 9; Table 5). Five documented packs were counted as breeding pairs. All 14 documented mortalities were human caused. Confirmed sheep losses ( $n = 57$ ) were attributed to the Steel Mountain, Timberline, and Warm Springs packs. Additionally, sheep losses which could not be attributed to a known pack occurred near Trapper Creek. Confirmed cattle losses ( $n = 5$ ) were attributed to the Danskin and Packer John packs. The Timberline pack was confirmed to have killed 1 dog, and the Warm Springs pack was confirmed to have injured a dog.. Twelve wolves were lethally removed from the Danskin, Packer John, Steel Mountain, and Timberline packs. One wolf was lethally removed from the Trapper Creek depredation site. Nine wolves were captured and radiocollared; 7 by trapping and 2 by aerial darting.

### Law Enforcement Summary

Regional Conservation Officers, in consultation with USFWS Special Agents, investigated 2 incidents of reports involving shot or dead wolves. The first report involved a possible wolf shooting near Prairie, Idaho. Officers from IDFG and the USFWS responded and confirmed that a wolf had been shot and wounded based on physical evidence. The officers attempted to trail and locate the animal, but it was not found. In the second incident, an IDFG officer responded to a report of a dead wolf in Garden Valley, Idaho. The officer determined the wolf was shot and the case was turned over to the USFWS for investigation.

### Documented Resident Packs

#### *Bear Valley*

Female B215 remained the sole radiocollared member of this pack throughout the year. While flight locations indicated this pack was localized in their traditional Bear Valley denning area, forest fire closures in the vicinity prevented access so that field confirmation of reproduction could not be obtained. Because pups were not documented over the course of the summer, the Bear Valley pack was not counted as a breeding pair for 2006; however, given the relatively large increase in pack size from 2005 ( $n = 8$  gray) to 2006 ( $n = 13$  gray), it's likely these wolves did raise a litter of pups.

#### *Big Buck*

Alpha female B255 remained the sole radiocollared member of this pack throughout the year. Late fall flights confirmed biologists' summer tracking estimate of 2 pups. This first year pack had a minimum of 5 wolves (4 gray, 1 black), was not implicated in livestock depredations, and was counted as a breeding pair for 2006.



*Photo Michael Lucid*

Members of Big Buck pack feeding on a kill.

### *Calderwood*

Alpha female B141 remained the sole radiocollar in this pack. Ground monitoring led to an observation of 4 gray pups. This third-year pack had a minimum of 5 gray wolves, was not implicated in livestock depredations, and was counted as a breeding pair for 2006.

### *Danskin*

Livestock producers reported wolf activity in spring 2006, which was confirmed by program personnel. Three gray pups were observed. Danskin was confirmed in 3 calf depredations and probably depredated on a fourth. Two adults and 2 pups were subsequently removed via aerial gunning. This first-year pack had a minimum of 5 wolves (4 grays, 1 black) during the summer, but was reduced to a minimum of 1 gray wolf in the fall. It was not counted as a breeding pair for 2006.

### *Packer John*

B261 disappeared shortly after capture in December 2005, leaving the 2 alphas, B205 and B262, as remaining radiocollared members. One gray pup was observed over the course of the summer. This may not have been a complete pup count. Packer John was implicated in depredating upon 1 calf. Two gray adult females were lethally controlled as a result. This third-year pack had a minimum of 3 wolves (2 grays, 1 black) based on aerial counts and was not counted as a breeding pair for 2006.

### *Scott Mountain*

This pack began 2006 with 2 radiocollars; B178 and B263. B263 dispersed shortly after December 2005. Winter aerial observations indicated B263 may have paired with another wolf in the Garden Valley area; however, contact was briefly lost with B263 when he dispersed to join the Florence Pack. B178 remained with the pack but was found sporadically through spring monitoring. Eventually she led biologists to a rendezvous site where 1 black pup was counted. In addition to the pup, B178 and another collared gray wolf were observed. The other collared gray was with the pup and is assumed to be alpha female B78, whose collar is presumed to be non-functional. Howling observations later in the summer confirmed the presence of at least 1 pup and 2 adults. During December mule deer composition counts, biologists observed a group of 4 gray wolves, of which 1-2 had radiocollars, in Scott Mountain's territory. The combination of a same-day wolf monitoring flight which confirmed these wolves were not an adjacent documented wolf pack and that the observed wolves were wearing radiocollars (Scott Mountain likely has 1 or 2 inactive collars) suggests they were Scott Mountain. Thus, this sixth-year pack had a minimum of 4 gray wolves, was not implicated in livestock depredations, and did not count as a breeding pair for 2006.

### *Steel Mountain*

Early in 2006, subordinate female B188 dispersed to found the Big Water pack along the South Fork of the Boise River. This left alphas R241 and B189 as collared pack animals. Subordinate male B271 was captured and collared in May. During the capture operation, 2 gray and 2 black pups were observed at the den. Between June and September, pack members were implicated in 5 separate sheep depredation events totaling 23 confirmed and 11 probable. The result of these depredations was a control action which removed 3 black and 1 gray subadult females. All depredations and 3 of the wolf removals actually occurred in the Magic Valley Region (Table 6). This fourth-year pack had a minimum of 10 wolves (5 black, 5 gray) and was counted as a breeding pair for 2006.





*Photo Michael Lucid*  
Steel Mountain pups in Den.



*Photo Michael Lucid*  
Hollie Miyasaki handling B266 of the Timberline pack.

### *Timberline*

2006 began with no Timberline wolves on the air. In February, 2 subadults (B265 and B266) were darted and radiocollared. These wolves were originally believed to belong to a separate pack. However, subsequent monitoring of 2 Timberline subadult wolves (B279 and B280) which were captured in April revealed an association between all 4 wolves. These radiocollared wolves led biologists to a rendezvous site where 3 gray pups were observed. Later in the summer, an additional 2 subadults (B299 and B300) were radiocollared resulting in 6 active radiocollars. By late fall, 3 radios (B279, B280, and B299) were missing and B300 had dispersed. By December, B265 and B266 were the only collars in the pack. In September, this pack was implicated in 1 confirmed and 1 probable sheep depredation as well as 1 confirmed guard dog depredation. This depredation resulted in a control action which removed 1 subadult female and 1 pup. This fifth-year pack had a minimum of 10 gray wolves and was counted as a breeding pair for 2006.



*Photo Michael Lucid*  
Member of Timberline pack.

### *Warm Springs*

Alpha male B190 was the sole radiocollared member until subadult B283 was captured in June. A bear hunter confirmed reproduction by submitting a video of 6 gray pups feeding on his bait. Warm Springs again chose the Bull Trout Lake area as a rendezvous site providing numerous campers the opportunity to hear wolves howling near a developed campground. In August, WS confirmed Warm Springs pack members killed a sheep and injured a guard dog. Traps were not set to remove a wolf due to high human activity. Instead, WS personnel spent a few nights with the sheep band to be on hand in case the wolves attacked again. The wolves never returned. In the fall, B190 was illegally shot leaving B283 as the sole radiocollared wolf at the end of the year. This third-year pack had a minimum of 4 gray pack members and was counted as a breeding pair for 2006.



*Photo Michael Lucid*

Warm Springs pack members.

### Suspected Resident Packs

#### *Thorn Creek*

Multiple reports indicated there may have been undocumented wolf activity in this area. Biologists confirmed wolf tracks in the Thorn Creek drainage during February.

### Other Documented Wolf Groups

#### *B300*

This female was captured as a member of the Timberline pack in late summer. In the fall, she dispersed and was located at various locations throughout the Garden Valley area. During a December monitoring flight, a black wolf was observed near her, although a visual of B300

could not be obtained. This first-year group had a minimum of 2 wolves (1 gray, 1 black) and was considered a potential mated pair.

#### B306

A subadult female, B306, was caught during a late-summer trapping operation for Calderwood. Despite Calderwood's alpha female B141 being nearby when B306 was captured, subsequent monitoring did not support a pack affiliation between the 2 wolves. A visual was obtained during a September monitoring flight of B306 with 1-2 other gray wolves and a visual of 3 gray wolves was obtained during a December monitoring flight. This first-year group had a minimum of 3 gray wolves and was considered a potential mated pair.